

690 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE (2)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE R

## Memorandum of Conversation

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

DATE: January 13, 1971

REVIEWED BY MAC/NA DATE 3.13.81

SUBJECT: Jewish Defense League Threat

ADS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒RESPONSE DENIED ☐

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

PARTICIPANTS: Edward A. Mainland - EUR/SOV

Robert Bryman, "Professional Seminar Consultants"

COPIES TO: EUR

EUR/SOV

INR/RSE

INR/DDC

SCA

SY

INA-8

USUN - Mr. Kuttner

Embassy Moscow

FBI - Mr. Gruentzel

L/UNA - Mr. Bettauer

IO/OIA - Mr. Hennes

L/EUR - Mr. Brower

19 JAN 1971

Robert Bryman, "Professional Seminar Consultants," 3194 Lawson Boulevard, Oceanside, New York 11672 (516-536-7292), telephoned at 1:45 p.m. January 12 to complain about a threat from the Jewish Defense League (JDL). Bryman said that "several weeks ago" Cantor Larry Fine, executive director of the JDL, had told Bryman and Morgan Brown, publisher of Sales Management Magazine (630 3rd Avenue, New York City) to call off an international marketing program which they had arranged in the Soviet Union. According to Bryman, Fine said that if they refused to acquiesce, "We'll be down on you so fast that you'll be sorry you were born". The program was cancelled.

Fine also threatened Bryman about a 300-member teachers' tour to the USSR scheduled for April. Bryman said he felt the United Federation of Teachers, the largest teachers' union in the US, had withdrawn its sponsorship from the tour because of JDL pressure. Bryman thought that the JDL's next move would be to harass and bully all travel agencies handling Soviet business. He said that the JDL moves fast and will physically wreck offices which do not comply with its demands. Larry Fine had said, "We'll be down on every one of them." Bryman heard rumors that Cosmos Travel had been threatened by telephone.

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(Drafting Office and Officer)

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Bryman said that Fine had claimed privately to be "working for the FBI and doing things for them". Bryman said he felt this was a "lie" but added "if it is true, then God help us". He strongly requested the US Government to do something about the JDL lest the wave of tourist cancellations spread and US tourist agencies suffer.

Bryman asked whether the Department of State was warning tourists away from the USSR and what might develop during the period leading up to his April tour. He said that the Soviets were demanding money for this tour in advance. He was afraid that if the situation radically worsened, he would have to cancel the tour and lose his deposit. I replied that Soviet harassment in Moscow had been directed at officials and official institutions thus far. The Department was hopeful that the situation, although of course volatile, could be kept from getting worse. I said that we had issued no public warning against tourism to the USSR and at present were not discouraging travel by groups such as those handled by his firm.

Bryman said he resented an extremist group attempting to "drag US-USSR relations back to the cold war" and added he would be happy to talk further about JDL threats, although he wished to avoid publicity lest it damage his business. He said he was leaving the country to visit India for one month beginning January 20 but would be available until then. Bryman had not gone to the police because he thought they had "done nothing" and were "ineffective". I advised him to inform the police, but he said he did not want "involvement".

EUR/SOV:EMainland:jeh

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